

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING PRESS SUMMARY, APRIL 18, 1978

NO. 10

1. WIRES

UPI -- ANDERSON FROM LONDON

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WILL TELL THE SOVIET UNION THIS WEEK THAT WASHINGTON WILL NOT SIGN A NEW SALT AGREEMENT UNLESS MOSCOW HALTS DEVELOPMENT OF POWERFUL NEW MISSILES AND THE BACKFIRE BOMBER, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TUESDAY.

OTHER POINTS:

--U.S. OFFICIALS, ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY, TOLD REPORTERS
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SOVIETS HAVE TESTED FIVE DIFFERENT SERIES OF LARGE NEW MISSILES SINCE SALT I AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND US WANTS SUCH DEVELOPMENT HALTED AS PART OF GENERAL AGREEMENT.

--OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED SOVIETS ARE CORRECT IN SAYING

BACKFIRE BOMBER MEDIUM RANGE PLANE; THEREFORE, NOT

STRATEGIC WEAPON. BUT OFFICIALS SAID IT WILL BE
IMPOSSIBLE TO RATIFY SALT II IN SENATE UNLESS SOVIETS
AGREE TO RESTRAIN THIS NEW WEAPON.

--VANCE TOLD REPORTERS HE INTENDS TAKE UP WITH SOVIETS
THEIR ACTIONS IN AFRICA, ALTHO WASHINGTON REALIZES
LEVERAGE IT HAS IS EXTREMELY LIMITED.

--U.S. OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE CENTO MEETING WILL
HEAL BREACH WITH TURKEY OVER ARMS EMBARGO WHICH CARTER
ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO LIFT.

AP--NO SCHWEID

REUTER--NO GUTMAN

2. NEWSPAPERS

NOTE: THERE WAS NO DELIVERY TO DEPARTMENT TUESDAY OF
TUESDAY'S LA TIMES. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF LA TIMES
MONDAY PIECE BY JOHNSTON, DATELINED PRETORIA AND DELIVERED
TO DOS TUESDAY.

LEAD: THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TOLD BRITISH AND
AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS SUNDAY THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR A
TRANSITION TO BLACK RULE IN NAMIBIA WERE UNACCEPTABLE
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WITHOUT FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

OTHER POINTS:

--AT SAME TIME, VANCE/OWEN APPEARED WIN TACIT SAG SUPPORT
FOR ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE ON RHODESIAN ISSUE.

--FACT THAT DURING DAR TALKS, PF REPORTEDLY DEMANDED
CONTROL OF EIGHT OF 12 SEATS ON PROPOSED GOVERNING COUNCIL
FOR TRANSITION BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA SEEN AS
MAJOR SETBACK FOR AA PLAN. BY COMPARISON, FAILURE WIN
IMMEDIATE SAG SUPPORT WESTERN PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA
SEEMED ONLY MINOR IRRITANT.

--VANCE/OWEN MET BRIEFLY WITH REPORTERS LATE SUNDAY BUT
TURNED ASIDE ALL REQUESTS FOR ACCOUNTING RESULTS OF JOINT
DIPLOMATIC EFFORT. INFO VACUUM, HOWEVER, FILLED BY SAG'S
BOTHAS. WHILE BOTHAS DID NOT FLATLY SAY SAG REJECTED AA PLAN
FOR NAMIBIA, HE LEFT IMPRESSION THAT PLAN NOT ACCEPTABLE
BECAUSE IN REQUIRING SAG TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORY, IT
WOULD LEAVE AREA DEFENSELESS TO TERRORIST SCALPINGS AND

MURDERS. BOTHA DECLINED COMMENT ON NEW DEMANDS PUT FORWARD BY PF ALLIANCE.

--THIS LEFT US OFFICIALS--WHO HAD BEEN GRASPING AT STRAWS ALL DAY IN EFFORT EXPLAIN HOW AA PLAN COULD BE SALVAGED-- WITH YET ANOTHER STRAW: BOTHA HAD REFRAINED FROM DENOUNCING THE PF. IN ADDITION, WHILE ADMITTING UNDER QUESTIONING THAT VANCE HAD SOUGHT SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSURE ON RHODESIA TO JOIN TALKS WITH GUERILLAS, BOTHA ALSO REFRAINED DENOUNCING IDEA OF STAGING SUCH CONFERENCE.

-- WHAT MOST EVIDENT SUNDAY WAS THAT DAR SESSION HAD FALLEN FAR BELOW EXPECTATIONS. ALSO THAT NKOMO/MUGABE NOT ONLY REJECTED KEY PROVISIONS OF AA PLAN; THEY ALSO DEMANDED UNCLASSIFIED

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DOMINANT ROLE IN TRANSITION GOVERNMENT.

--IN PUBLIC STATEMENT DELIVERED EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, MUGABE SPELLED OUT FULL DIMENSIONS OF PF'S INCREASED DEMAND. "THE PATRIOTIC FRONT," MUGABE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "MUST HAVE PREDOMINANT ROLE IN THAT COUNCIL. THE ARMY MUST BE OUR ARMY--PURE AND SIMPLE. OUR FORCES MUST CONSTITUTE THE POLICE FORCE..."

--BOTH US/UK NEGOTIATORS DISMAYED BY TURN OF EVENTS/ ADMITTED THAT MUGABE IN PUBLIC WAS NO MORE EXTREME THAN HE WAS IN PRIVATE. HOWEVER, US OFFICIALS, IN THEIR PUBLIC COMMENTS, MADE EXCUSES FOR MUGABE'S NEED SOUND TOUGH AT THIS STAGE OF TALKS/ ASSERTED THEIR CONVICTION THAT PF STILL OPEN TO COMPROMISE.

3. EVENING TELEVISION

NO COVERAGE FROM NBC'S VALERIANI; CBS'S B. KALB OR ABC'S DUNSMORE.

EXTENSIVE COVERAGE GIVEN BY ALL THREE NETWORKS TO SENATE RATIFICATION OF SECOND PANAMA CANAL TREATY. CHRISTOPHER

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